GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3118
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2016
Degradation of Land
Kher Smt. Kirron

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approximately 45% of country''s land is degraded primarily due to deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, mining and excessive ground water extraction, and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Chandigarh and Punjab;
(b) whether this land can be regenerated by afforestation, etc., and if so, the details of the methods adopted in this regard; and
(c)the details of land that have been regenerated so far, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a), (b) & (c) There is no centralized data base or information available in the Ministry to indicate that 45% of country''s land is degraded due to deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, mining and excessive ground water extraction, though it is recognized that these factors can to lead to degradation of lands.

As per information received from National Afforestation & Eco- Development Board (NAEB),Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, NAEB is implementing a National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for afforestation and eco- restoration of degraded forests. The scheme is implemented in participatory mode under Joint Forest Management (JFM) approach. Under NAP, an area of 21.36 lakh hectare has been treated with an investment of Rs.3639.28 crore, since the inception of the programme in 2000-01 to 2015-16.The State wise details of area approved for the afforestation and corresponding funds released are given at Annexure-I.

Further, the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has also been implementing an area development programme namely Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009, for development of rainfed/degraded areas. The major activities taken up under IWMP inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihood activities for the asset-less persons. The Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) has now been amalgamatedas the Watershed Component of the Pradhan MantriKrishiSinchayeeYojana (PMKSY) with effect from 2015-16.

As on 30.06.2016, a total of 8214 watershed projects have been sanctioned covering an area of 39.07 million ha and an amount of Rs.12821.66 crore released as Central assistance to various States under the aforesaid scheme. The State-wise details of project sanctioned, area covered, total project costand funds released under the programme are given at Annexure-II.
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